



# The Village News

February 2025

## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS STAY NEIGHBORS

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Clark County February Events

Below is a list of some February fun in Clark County for you to explore with your Village friends. Please let us know if you would like us to help arrange a group outing for the in-person.

**Virtual Author Talks**-2/4, 2/11 and 2/18 @ 11-12 p.m. Each week, Camas Public Libraries is hosting a virtual talk with an author. 2/4- Sabrina Sholts discusses her book *The Human Disease: How We Create Pandemics, From Our Bodies to Our Beliefs*. 2/11-Waubgeshig Rice talks about his newest book *Moon of the Turning Leaves*, which is a sequel to his book *Moon of the Crusted Snow*. 2/18-Lee Hawkins talks about his book, *I Am Nobody's Slave: How Uncovering My Family's History Set Me Free*. For more information, go to: [Month Calendar | Camas Public Library](#)

**St. Valentines Wine and Chocolate Festival** 2/9-2/18 at various wineries in SW Washington. Sample local wine and boutique chocolate pairings at 23 Southwest Washington wineries and tasting rooms. To see a list of wineries, go to: [St Valentine's Wine and Chocolate Festival — SWWA Winery Association](#)

**High Tea at the Grant House**-2/15 & 2/16 @ 2 p.m. Join us for High Tea at the Grant House! Start with traditional crustless tea sandwiches and savory bites, then enjoy a traditional English scone with jam & cream and finish with a selection of sweet treats. For more info and tickets, go to: [Willful Wine Co - ABOUT - Events](#)



Want to create winter interest in your yard? See what our VCC Master Gardener is trying out on [page 2](#).



Breakfast/coffee gatherings on the west and on the east side of town is now being offered. Find out when on [page 3](#).



A lot of non-profits want money. Read some tips for making sure they are legitimate on [page 5](#).



## CLIPPINGS FROM THE GARDEN

February 2025

BY JANET HOUCK

### Planning



So, I have had a thought in the last few weeks of this cold January. Just go outside and look at the garden now. In January. What do you like? What needs to either go or change? What is missing?

Winter interest is not something I have ever paid much attention to. But now, thanks to discussions online about it by gardeners that I enjoy, I am going to do something about it.

First of all, there are not enough smaller evergreen shrubs. I do not need or want any more larger trees, but shrubs that are in the 5-8' range are missing. I do have two Lemon Cypress that started out three years ago as one-foot centerpieces in two large pots. They grew to about 3 1/2 feet and were too big for the pot. Out they came to go into the ground. They are happy and are now about five feet tall, against the fence and look good. So, I bought two more that are about 3 1/2 feet now, were on sale, and are just sitting in their nursery pots in the backyard, waiting for another month or so and they will go against a different fence to create balance and more winter interest. The bright lime green is attractive to me. So, there are many other conifers out there but now I am looking at camellias.

Camellias are evergreen broadleaf plants that love our acidic soil. "Camellias are popular ornamental, tea, and woody-oil plants cultivated worldwide for centuries. Over 26,000 cultivars, with more than 51,000 cultivar names, including synonyms, have been registered or published.

Of economic importance in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Indian subcontinent, leaves of *C. sinensis* are processed to create the popular beverage tea. The ornamental *C. japonica*, *C. sasanqua* and their hybrids are the source of hundreds of garden cultivars. *C. oleifera* produces tea seed oil, used in cooking and cosmetics." -Wikipedia

My first purchase was the plant that combined with bergamot oil produces Earl Grey tea! That will be a whole new adventure for me. Stay tuned. I will continue my search for the rest of the winter, looking for a variety of bloom times, flower color, and flower structure. I'm looking forward to it.

Now, out to the yard and deal with branches and more leaves.

Garden On!

## February VCC Events

Check the website calendar before all events/meetings for any changes or updated information.

(<https://villagesclarkcounty.org/blank-page/events/>). Also check your email for evites and more information. All in-person events are subject to current COVID guidelines and may become virtual or rescheduled if needed.

**VCC events are for Members and Volunteers (Villagers) unless noted as "Public".**

Tuesdays at Ten-2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25 Coffee and breakfast at The KitchenTable in Salmon Creek. 1319 NE 134<sup>th</sup> St. Vancouver. Public welcome.

Thursdays at 9:30-2/6, 2/13, 2/20 and 2/27 Coffee and breakfast at Sunny's Diner 1801 SE 164<sup>th</sup> Ave (same parking lot as Big Al's). Public welcome.

Feb 5, 4:30-6:30pm - Resource Fair, Vancouver Community Library, Columbia Room (901 C Street, Vancouver). Open to the public.

Feb 10<sup>th</sup> and Feb 24<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m. InStitches handstitching group. Call the office 360-553-1520 for location of members' homes. Come and stitch, knit, crochet, mend, chat, drink coffee and tea, and gather.

Feb 12, 10:00am-2:30pm - Envisioning My Future: End-of-Life Issues and Planning. Vancouver Innovation Center, 18110 SE 34<sup>th</sup> St, Vancouver. Call VCC Office (360-553-1520) if you need a ride. (More details on our website calendar.)

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> @ 1-3 p.m. Governing Council. Join us in person at First Presbyterian Church, Library Room or on Zoom. Villagers are encouraged to attend. Contact Janet Houck via email at [jhouck@villagesclarkcounty.org](mailto:jhouck@villagesclarkcounty.org)

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 a.m. V-101. See details below. Public presentation/discussion.

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m.-Book Club. See details below.

Feb 22, 1-3pm All Volunteer Roundtable (Volunteers only) Discussion: Member Home Safety.

Feb 23, 11:00am-2:00pm - Resource Fair, Keller Williams Premier Partners, 2211 E Mill Plain Blvd, Vancouver. (More details on our website calendar.) Open to the public.

### VCC Book Club

Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. in the First Presbyterian Church Library.

We are reading "The Paris Novel" by Ruth Reichl.



### V-101

Come learn about how Villages Clark County can help you "age in place."

**When:** Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** Vancouver Community Library 901 C St.-Skamania Room

## Villager Spotlight-Julie Huntley

After retiring in 2019 I knew I wanted to find a volunteer opportunity that would be a good fit. For a couple of years, that was volunteering for Woodland Action. When that ended, my hunt for a new volunteer opportunity led me to Villages. I have been with Villages for almost a year now and am excited to be part of this organization. I am a member of the Volunteer Team and was recently voted to the General Council where I co-chair.

I live in Woodland with my husband Russ and dog Bailey. We enjoy the local playhouse, traveling, biking, and kayaking. Some of my hobbies are drawing, painting, and crocheting.



### VCC Wishes a Happy February Birthday to:

**Jan Hammerstrom (2/9)**

**Marge McGlynn (2/11)**

**Allen J Jones (2/16)**

Other notable celebrities with February Birthdays are:

**Joe Pesci (2/9)**

**Burt Reynolds (2/11)**

**John McEnroe (2/16)**



### Humor Corner



You let them Shenan once, they'll Shenanigan



## HELP WANTED!



- Be part of the heartbeat of VCC.
- Work from home, about two hours a day.
- Just one or two days a week.
- Help members get the assistance they need.
- Call the office (360-553-1520) for information.



We have lost another dear VCC Friend...

**Kathy Walsh** was born in Rapid City, South Dakota, on June 22, 1946, nine months after VJ day so she always said she was the first Boomer. Her father was called up in the Korean War and remained in the Air Force with the family living on stateside air bases, moving every 3 years or so. Kathy kept up that pattern as a young adult, starting college at the University of New Mexico, graduating from the University of Maryland, getting two masters' degrees at San Diego State University, and finally receiving the PhD in English at the University of Virginia in 1990, as a returning student. She was always grateful for the good teachers, favorable loans, and ample work study opportunities that made it possible for her to work her way through college. She dedicated her working career to community college instruction with the aim of giving back to other such students. For over 30 years she taught English and then spent 10 years in administration, retiring as Vice President for Instruction at Central Oregon Community College in Bend.



Kathy preferred small towns and quiet spaces and enjoyed reading, swimming, and gardening. She was noted for her kindness as well as her sense of style and her ready sense of humor. She was known to be generous with her time mentoring colleagues and friends. And she was a tireless advocate and loving companion for her disabled daughter. Her greatest joys were her children, Emily Walsh and Rebecca Wiggins, daughter-in-law, Natalie Wood, grandchildren, June and Ida Wood, two siblings, Patti Ahler and Ken Walsh, and her many dear friends.

## 5 Things Before Donating to Charity

To ensure your support counts, do your research. Following are ways to learn more about a charity and avoid donating to a scam, courtesy of the Federal Trade Commission.

### Before You Donate

#### 1. Find your desired cause online.

Search terms like "hurricane relief" or "homeless kids" plus (include) phrases like "best charity" or "highly rated charity." Once you find a charity you like, search its name plus "complaint," "review," "rating," "fraud," or "scam." If reviews are bad, start over.

#### 2. Check the charity's website.

Does it give details about its programs, how it uses donations, and how much of your donation will go directly to support the programs? If not, find a charity that does.

#### 3. Use one of these organizations to research charities:

- Charity Navigator
- CharityWatch

#### 4. Is the charity registered?

Some states require charities to register with the state regulator. See if It's registered at [doj.state.or.us/charitable-activities](http://doj.state.or.us/charitable-activities)

#### 5. Tax deductible?

If important to you, confirm the organization you're donating to is registered as tax-exempt with the IRS here: [irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search](http://irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search)

### Calls Seeking Donations

The safest thing to do if someone calls asking you to donate and you'd like to, is to get the name and website of the cause. End the call, look up the charity online, and follow the previous guidelines.

### How You Pay

- **Don't** donate with a wire transfer or gift card. Anyone asking you to donate this way is a scammer.
- **It's safest** to donate by credit card or check — after researching the charity.
- **Beware of cryptocurrency.** If someone tells you the only way to donate is with cryptocurrency and that the charity doesn't accept checks or credit cards, it's likely a scam.

### After you've donated

- **Check your bank account and credit card statements** to confirm you've been charged the amount you agreed to — and that you're not signed up to make a recurring donation if you didn't mean to.
- **Keep a record for deductions at tax time.**
- **If you sent money to a scammer,** report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://ReportFraud.ftc.gov)

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♥ HAPPY  
Valentine's  
DAY ♥

Set aside a special time to enjoy the company of a spouse,  
parent, sibling, coworker, friend...

Or each of the above!